

R E M A R K S

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c), a clean copy of amended claims 3-5, 7 and 10 is set forth in the present Amendment, and a marked-up version of the amended claims 3-5, 7 and 10 is attached hereto.

The amendment is being made to eliminate the improper multiple dependencies of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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Access-point-dependent rate fixing of telecommunication links.

The invention relates to a method for access-point-dependent determination of rates for telecommunications, as well as to a telecommunications system arranged for access-point-dependent computation of telecommunication rates.

It is known from practice, depending on the location of a subscriber - or at any rate on an apparatus bearing a subscriber identification - within a cellular network for mobile telephony to invoice several rates to the subscriber.

In order to better compete, e.g., in situations where the subscriber is located close to home or to his job, and therefore may relatively simply dispose of a connection by way of the nonmobile telephone network, against links by way of said nonmobile telephone network, some providers of mobile telephony invoice a reduced rate for conversations in the home zone. For conversations from locations outside said zone, on the contrary, the customary mobile rate is invoiced.

In practice, the zone in which a discount is offered is determined by the cell (the base transceiver) which best covers the location of the home base of the subscriber in question. Said cell constitutes the access point by way of which the subscriber, when making a link, gains access to the telecommunications network.

This way of determining the subscriber's zone, however, leads to several objections.

To start with, the access point must be determined in advance, e.g., by determining, at the home or office location of the subscriber, with which cell there is made a link, which is very laborious. Determination by way of plan views or maps which indicate the range of various cells is unreliable, since the transmission ranges, particularly in urban and hilly surroundings, may have craggy and surprising contours.

secondly, it is of special importance to the subscriber that it be known whether at specific positions, where he wants to call often, there may be called at the reduced rate. After all, the subscriber will like to ascertain whether, from a location from which there is called frequently, there is not structurally

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CLAIMS

1. Method for access-point-dependent calculation of telecommunication rates by way of a specific network, comprising:

- generating connecting data in response to obtaining and using, by a subscriber or group of subscribers, telecommunication links (3-10), which connecting data each time contains data which identifies a network-access point (11-18, 48) used by a subscriber;
- during a specific period of time storing, in a connecting-data file (30), said connecting data, and
- as a function of data on access points (11-18, 48) used by a subscriber or group of subscribers in said period of time, determining the access points (11-18) to which rates determined for said subscriber or group of subscribers, are coupled.

2. Method according to claim 1, said subscribers or members of said group of subscribers each time identifying themselves at least before, during or after obtaining a link, to the network by way of an access-point-independent identification code.

3. Method according to claim 1 [or 2], said network being a mobile network whose access points (11-18) communicate wirelessly with connected subscribers in zones (19-26) served by the access points (11-18, 48) in question.

Claim 1

4. Method according to [any of the preceding claims], the determination to which of the access points (11-18) of said network specific rates are coupled for a specific subscriber or group of subscribers, taking place in response to data on the use of individual network access points (11-18, 48) by said subscriber or said group of subscribers.

Claim 1

5. Method according to [any of the preceding claims], the determination to which of the access points (11-18) of said network rates determined for a specific subscriber or group of subscribers are coupled, at least partly taking place in response

to data on the use of individual access points (8) of a different network (56) by said subscriber or group of subscribers.

5 6. Method according to claim 5, the determination to which of said access points (11-18) of said network there are coupled special rates for a subscriber or group of subscribers in response to data on the use of individual network access points (48) of a different network (46), taking place on the basis of 10 statistical relationships between the use of individual access points (11-18) of the one network and individual access points (48) of the other network (46) by respective subscribers to both networks in general.

15 7. Method according to [any of the preceding claims] in which, during the determination, as a function of data on access points (11-18, 48) used in said period of time, to which of the access points (11-18) of said network, specific rates for said subscriber or group of subscribers are coupled, taking place by determining the greatest aggregated use of two or more adjacent ones of said access points (11-18) by said subscriber or group of subscribers.

20 8. Telecommunications system arranged for access-point-dependent calculation of telecommunication rates, comprising:
25 - a telecommunications network;
- a recording structure (27, 27', 27", 29) for generating connecting data in response to obtaining or using, by a subscriber or group of subscribers, telecommunication links (3-10), which connecting data each time contains data identifying a network-access point (11-18, 48) used by a subscriber;
30 - a memory structure (30) for, during a specific period of time, storing said connecting data as a connecting-data file, and
35 - a processor structure (32) arranged for determining, as a function of network-access points (11-18, 48), to which of

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the access points (11-18) for said subscriber specific rates were coupled.

5 9. System according to claim 8, said network being a mobile network and the access points (11-18) of said network being constituted by transmitters and receivers of said network.

10 ✓ 10. System according to claim 8 [or 9], further comprising at least a connection for connecting to a different network (46), said recording structure (27, 27', 27", 29) and said connection being arranged for receiving and recording connecting data on the use of access points (48) of said different network (46).

15 11. System according to claim 10, further comprising said different network (46), one of said networks being a nonmobile network and the other of said networks (46) being a mobile network.

20 12. System according to claim 10, said network being a wide-area network and said at least one connection being connected to a more fine-meshed network connected thereto.

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